



## **International Mobile Satellite Organization**

### **ASSEMBLY**

Twentieth Session

Malta, 29 September to 3 October 2008

### **Agenda item 6.1**

ASSEMBLY/20/6.1

Origin: Director

Date: 25 June 2008

## **GLOBAL MARITIME DISTRESS AND SAFETY SYSTEM (GMDSS)**

### **GMDSS SERVICES AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

<b><i>Executive Summary:</i></b>	this document provides information on various issues affecting the provision of GMDSS
<b><i>Action to be taken:</i></b>	to note the information provided
<b><i>Related documents:</i></b>	ASSEMBLY/20/6.2

## **1 GMDSS SERVICES PROVIDED BY INMARSAT**

The annual contributions by IMSO to the Eleventh and Twelfth Sessions of the IMO Sub-Committee on Radiocommunications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR 11 and 12) on “Analysis and assessment of the GMDSS performance of Inmarsat Global Ltd” were submitted to IMO, and copies were sent to all IMSO Member States. Copies are available on request.

These documents provided analysis and assessment of the performance by Inmarsat Global Ltd of the company’s obligations for the provision of maritime services within the GMDSS, as overseen by IMSO. The information covered the period from 01 November 2005 to 31 December 2007. It was assessed that, during this period, Inmarsat has continued to provide a sufficient quality of service to meet its obligations under the GMDSS.

The Chief Executive Officer of Inmarsat has agreed to make a presentation to this Session of the Assembly on Inmarsat’s activities.

## **2 PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE**

As provided for in the Public Services Agreement, the Director and Deputy Director attend regular meetings of the Public Services Committee.

## **3 PUBLIC SERVICES AGREEMENT**

At its Twenty-First Session, the Advisory Committee agreed the text of the draft Reference Public Services Agreement, which incorporated amendments consequential to IMO's adoption of Resolution A.1001(25). This matter is discussed further in document ASSEMBLY/20/6.1.

## **4 CONTINGENCY EXERCISES**

Members of the Directorate regularly attend programmed Contingency Exercises for each satellite region held at the Inmarsat Satellite Control Centre, which involve the participation of the relevant Land Earth Station Operators (LESOs). The purpose of these exercises is to ensure that the maritime distress and safety services can be successfully restored within the one-hour timescale required by IMSO and IMO. These exercises provide IMSO with continuing assurance that Inmarsat operations staff are fully aware of their responsibilities and are ready to exercise their delegated authority to act within the timescales required. Each exercise is conducted according to a script, which is unique for each ocean region, and ensures that all necessary actions are taken in the correct order and at the correct time. The scripts are reviewed and revised after each exercise, to incorporate any lessons learnt.

## **5 GMDSS SERVICES VIA OTHER PROVIDERS**

The Director has been in contact with potential providers regarding their plans in relation to GMDSS, but has nothing definitive to report at this stage.

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